

HI 102 – The Emergence of Modern Europe: Renaissance to the Present

Spring 2016

MWF, 1:00-2:00

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Office hours: Mondays, 2:00-3:30; Thursdays, 12:30-2:00; other times by appointment
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Course Outline

The goal of this introductory survey course is to give students a strong understanding of the broader trends of modern European history and to prepare them for further study in European history, and history in general. As such, we will focus on a few important themes of European history – such as the growth of the modern state and economy – and also develop some crucial skills for historical research and analysis. The class is also oriented toward understanding various strains of European thought and culture. In each class we will discuss one chapter from the textbook as well as some texts, art, music, or film.

Course Requirements

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Short primary source assignment, 10%. Students will be given a selection of primary sources and accompanying questions and will be required to write a short (2-page) paper about one. Due February 19.

Midterm examination, 25%. To be held in class, March 2.

Take-home examination, 30%. Distributed March 30, due April 4.

Final examination, 35%. The final exam will be a two-hour open-book exam. For the exam, students will answer two essay questions pertaining to the major themes of the course. Students may bring relevant books and notes to the exam. The examination has been scheduled by the registrar for May 7, 12:30-2:30.

Class discussion and preparation. Attendance and informed participation in class discussion is required. Although a grade will not be allocated for participation, in the case of final grades which are borderline, good participation may boost a student's grade. Prolonged absence is grounds for failure.

No credit will be given for any work submitted late without my prior approval or for examinations missed.

All assignments should be completed independently and plagiarism from any source is unacceptable. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean's Office. If they have not already, students should familiarize themselves with Boston University's Academic Conduct Code:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>

Texts

The following textbook is available for purchase at the BU Barnes and Noble:

Clifford R. Backman, *Cultures of the West: A History*, vol 2, 2nd ed. (Oxford, 2016).

All required texts not for purchase, assignments, handouts from class, and any essential course documents will be available on blackboard.

Course Schedule and Assignments

January 20

Introduction: What is Europe, and where is it?

January 22

The Renaissance (Backman, 12)

January 25

The Reformations I (Backman, 12)

January 27

The Reformations II (Backman, 12)

January 29

Scientific Revolutions (Backman, 13)

February 1

The Atlantic World (Backman, 13)

February 3

Wars of Religion (Backman, 14)

Guest lecture by Prof. Phillip Haberkern

February 5

Age of Absolutism (Backman, 15)

February 8
England (Backman, 15)

February 10
The Dutch Republic (Backman, 15)

February 12
The Enlightenment I (Backman, 16)

February 16 (substitute Monday)
The Enlightenment II (Backman, 16)

February 17
Goodbye Poland (Palmer, Colton, and Kramer, *A History of the Modern World*, chapter 5, on blackboard)

February 19—primary source assignment due
The French Revolution (Backman, 17)

February 22
Interpreting the French Revolution (Backman, 17)

February 24
Napoleonic Europe (Backman, 17)

February 26
Industrialization and Its Discontents (Backman, 18)

February 29
Modern Political Ideologies (Backman, 19)

March 2
Midterm

March 4
Nationalism and the Revolutions of 1848 (Backman, 20)

March 14
National Unification (Backman, 20)

March 16
Women and Gender in the 19th Century (Backman, 21)

March 18
Religion and Secularization (Backman, 22)

March 21

European Imperialism (Backman, 23)

March 23

From Nihilism to Modernism (Backman, chapter 23 from 1st ed. on blackboard)

March 25

Modern Antisemitism (Efron et. al., *The Jews: A History*, pages 294-314 on blackboard)

March 28

The Great War (Backman, 24)

March 30—take-home midterm distributed

Russian Revolutions (Backman, 25)

April 1

Liberalism v. Fascism (Backman, 25)

April 4—take-home midterm due

Rise of the Soviet Union (Backman, 25)

April 6

World War II (Backman, 26)

Guest lecture by Prof. Alexis Perry

April 8

Interpreting the Holocaust (Backman, 26)

April 11

Post-war to Cold War (Backman, 27)

April 13

Decolonization (Backman, 27)

April 15

Something to Believe In (Backman, 28)

April 20

Revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe (Backman, 29)

April 22

The End of the Soviet Union (Backman, 29)

April 25

The Balkan Wars (Backman, 29)

April 27
The End of History?

April 29
Last day of class/exam review